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In the enumeration of great conventions and keynote speeches that of Senator Wolcott at Philadelphia yesterday must not be left out. He is one of the fluent and forceful speakers in the country.

For all the favors Chicago delegates receive in Philadelphia they are promising to "reciprocate four years from now." They feel so certain of getting the national convention in 1904 that they are discounting it in advance.

"Mark Hanna looks bright and blooming." "Mark Hanna looks ten years older than he did twelve months ago." The Philadelphia correspondents disagree almost as widely as the so-called portraits of the Ohio senator do.

Will the Democratic national convention denounce the President for his unconstitutional and unauthorized use of the army and navy in China, thereby promoting militarism and imperialism under the pretense of protecting American citizens?

If the Tammany Ice Trust had not come to grief, what a campaign contribution could have been made from the proceeds of ice sold at 60 cents a hundred pounds! But, found out, and ice selling at 25 cents, the contribution will be meager.

The battleship Oregon endeared itself to the American people by the unexampled record it made in the great voyage from San Francisco to Key West, and the voyage to China under "rush" orders will give the ship another claim to historic fame.

Governor Roosevelt is a very popular man, there is no denying it, but it would be a great pity to take him away from New York, which is in such need of him, and put him in the vice presidency, where his abounding energies would have no outlet.

Senator Hanna is no great orator, but he can face an audience without trembling and he knows how to say about the proper thing in a direct, businesslike way. His brief speech on opening the convention yesterday was much better than if it had been longer and scattering.

"Fighting Joe Wheeler" has been assigned to the command of the Department of the Lakes, with headquarters at Chicago. His service there will not be long, as he will go on the retired list in September, but it will be long enough to give the department a taste of the novel experience of being under the command of an ex-Confederate officer, and a very gallant one.

It was a proper and spontaneous act on the part of the delegates to the Philadelphia convention to play the band began to play the "Star-spangled Banner" and remain standing till the close of the piece. Now watch the Kansas City convention do the same thing. Perhaps Republicans are not more patriotic than Democrats, but they are more apt to think of things.

An ordinance for the elevation of the Pennsylvania and the Chicago & Western Indiana railroad tracks, passed by the Chicago Council on Monday night, has been accepted by the roads, and they will elevate 180 miles of tracks at a cost of \$15,000,000. An ordinance affecting other roads entering the city is expected to pass next week. The days of grade crossings seem to be numbered in all large cities.

If the report is true that Lord Roberts has mustered out the Natal troops and is preparing to send a division of Buller's men to China it is evident that he considers the war in South Africa near its end. If such should prove to be true the demagogues who hope to fight a pro-Boer campaign in the United States will find the undertaking a most difficult one. The Boer war ended, the Boer campaign in the United States will be neither brilliant nor effective.

Justice Brewer, of the United States Supreme Court, delivered the address before the graduating class of the Wisconsin Law School on Monday. His subject was "The Nature and Powers of the Federal Government," and his address was an argument against the centralization of power in the federal government through amendments to the Constitution. He even maintained that the attempt to regulate trusts by constitutional action should not be resorted to until other expedients have been tried and found ineffective. It is evident that Justice Brewer does not believe in tinkering with the Constitution.

Opinions seem to differ as to Governor Roosevelt's real reason for not wishing to accept the nomination for Vice President. He himself has put it on the ground that he could be of more service to the national ticket and to the party as candidate for Governor in New York. It may also be that a position involving so little activity and aggressiveness in politics is not to his taste. But if he thinks election to the vice presidency would injure his chances for President four years hence he is doubtless

mistaken. No man's chances for the presidency can be lessened by his election to an acceptable service in the second highest elective position in the government. The vice presidency is not an obscure position, and even if it were the people know where to find a man if they want him, and faithful service as Vice President is not likely to make them want him any the less for the higher office. Governor Roosevelt may or may not be as popular four years hence as he is now, but election to the vice presidency could not operate to make him less so.

POSSIBILITY OF WAR WITH CHINA.

It is not an uncommon thing that the performance of duty involves the assumption of responsibility and the incurring of danger. Our present action in China does both. As to the duty of the United States to protect its citizens in China there cannot be two opinions. In most countries it would hold the government responsible for the protection of Americans temporarily living there, and if they were murdered or injured would demand and enforce reparation. But the Chinese government is not amenable to civilized rules. Besides, it is evidently in sympathy with the Boxers, in these circumstances there is nothing for other governments to do but to act without reference to the Chinese government and protect their own citizens. Not to do so would be to repudiate one of the highest duties of government. Even if this reason were not conclusive the material interests of the United States in the East would require this government to join with others in performing a duty which the Chinese government is unable or unwilling to perform. Our new claim to rank among great powers would not stand a minute if we stood back and declined to assist other powers in protecting all foreigners, including our own citizens. If we were to do that there would be for us no more open door in China, no more claim to share in the trade of the Orient, no more domination in the Pacific. Other powers would say that, having declined to assume our share of a grave responsibility and to assist in the pacification of China, thereby taking a back seat in time of danger, we could not come to the front in time of peace and claim a share in results which we had no hand in bringing about. Plainly, therefore, it is the imperative duty of the United States to co-operate heartily and as effectively as possible with other powers in protecting foreigners in China. The President and the administration have done right in assuming the responsibility of prompt and vigorous action in the matter, and the country will fully sustain them.

What danger this action may involve is impossible to foresee at present. It certainly involves the possibility of a war between the western powers and China, or, as a London dispatch puts it, between Eastern and Western civilization. This is by no means a certainty, but it is a possibility. The present outbreak may prove, like many others that have occurred in China, of short duration. When the Chinese government comes face to face with the possibility of war with the powers now acting together it may change front and adopt a policy that will avert a general war, though it cannot escape responsibility for acts already done. But hatred of foreigners and the proverbial vanity and stubbornness of the Chinese may lead the government to take up the cause of the Boxers and thus precipitate the long-predicted and much-talked-of war between Eastern and Western civilization. Such a war might prove to be one of the greatest in the world's history. The Chinese are not homogeneous nor patriotic as we understand patriotism. Their government is weak and corrupt and their military forces unorganized. But they embrace nearly one-third of the population of the earth, more than all of Europe combined, and if once roused their mere inertia would be an element of almost irresistible strength. A people that have preserved their national integrity for six thousand years, growing stronger and more compact all the time, surviving all changes and all revolutions, must possess extraordinary racial forces. Once roused in a war believed to be for self-preservation these forces might prove tremendous. In such a conflict, involving as its logical result the dismemberment and partition of China, it is doubtful if either Japan or Russia would side with the Western powers. The former is wholly Oriental, and the sympathies and interests of the latter are so largely so that it is very doubtful if she would take part in a war that looked to the partition of China. The United States should not be drawn into such a war if it can possibly avoid it with honor, but it must not shrink the present duty because it involves the possibility of such an event.

THE SECRET OF AMERICAN SUCCESS.

A London cablegram, summarizing the recent Asot races, shows a remarkable degree of success by the American jockeys who rode, they winning a much larger number of races than any equal number of English jockeys. The leading sporting paper of London comments on this "extraordinary success of the American jockeys." It says they had to fight prejudice and overcome ridicule, that the position that they have won has been gained by sheer merit and that they win because "they ride with their heads as well as their hands."

PHILADELPHIA DISPATCH.

A Philadelphia dispatch says that considerable time has been spent in editing and condensing a platform which was brought from Washington with high official indorsement. There is no harm in having a platform prepared in advance, as in fact they always are to a greater or lesser degree, but the committee will make a mistake if it reports a verbose and argumentative platform. There are only a few really important matters in the public mind at present, and these should be disposed of without unnecessary verbiage.

Nobody knows just how much plagiarism goes on in the world, but enough is brought to light to cause surprise that writers should take such risks, and sometimes very bright ones, too.

A recent case is that of Dr. Beardshear, president of Iowa State College, who published a prose article in the May number of the Philistine in which all the ideas and most of the language is appropriated from one of Walt Whitman's poems. Whitman's poetry lends itself so readily to the prose form that the doctor probably thought the theft would not be

discovered, but there is always some meddlesome person to discover everything. In this case the resemblance is so close as to make the offense rank.

The coming departure of Rev. B. A. Jenkins, president of the University of Indianapolis, to a new field of labor, which has just been announced, will be a decided loss to local educational circles. While his work in behalf of the new university has not produced all the results the impatient public hoped for those who are informed on the subject know that he has been indefatigable in his efforts to promote its interests and that he has done much to pave the way for more rapid advances in the future. The first steps in such an enterprise are the most difficult, but these he has taken to the satisfaction of those who are interested with him, and they will regret his going.

A current item has it that Miss Elizabeth Smith, of Derby, Conn., a millionaire in her own right, has become a stenographer at a small salary, believing it is the duty of every woman to work. If Miss Smith has no other conception of useful work than that which brings a money return, then she has much to learn before she is properly qualified to possess a million dollars. A woman of wealth who cannot find enough important tasks to occupy all her time without entering a crowded profession and taking a place needed by a poor girl has a limited view of her duties to the world. She should be so busily occupied that she would need to employ a stenographer.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Joint Praise.

"What did you think of my poem, Billy?" "Well, I think it is fully as bad as any other war poetry I ever read."

A Double-Edged Convention.

"This is to be a great week in Philadelphia." "Yes; it will live up to the town and sober down some of the political aspirants."

From the Wilds of St. Louis.

"What made that St. Louis man so mad?" "I laughed at him because he said we were outrageously slow in civilizing the Philippines."

Woman and Politics.

"It seems as if every man in the country has a vice presidential boom."

"Yes, David; if you had any got-up about you, you'd have one, too."

Out of the Ordinary.

"My mother-in-law is a genuine phenomenon." "In what respect?"

"She says she can't criticize my faults because she has so many of her own."

Chile and Unparliamentary.

"What did Cousin Clara write about the club convention?"

"She says that it was the best-dressed and best-behaved lot of women she ever laid eyes on."

Letting Him Out.

Father—Now, daughter, I want you to let the doctor know that I didn't write your graduating essay.

Daughter—Oh, pa, don't you worry about that; everybody that knows you will know you didn't.

Footnotes.

What time of day it is often depends on which way you hold your watch.

Men are as deceitful as women; when a man gets bald he always acts as if he likes it.

Some women are so meddlesome that even the angels get annoyed and go off as they would have managed them.

When a man claims that the world owes him a living it indicates that he is getting tired of earning it for himself.

Of two women who stay all night together, one wants to talk all night, and the other one wants to go to bed.

The weather man gives us hot weather to pay us up for finding fault with winter; and cold weather to pay us up for finding fault with summer.

A woman seldom abandons reading a poor novel. If she does, she is as stupid as an owl, she sticks to them until the last chapter, to "see how they come out."

INDIANA EDITORIAL NOTES.

Will Tammany cut any ice at Kansas City?—Anderson Bulletin.

Mr. Bryan's preparations for porch parties this summer are complete.—Terre Haute Express.

South Bend is advertising a new cemetery as an inducement for people to settle in that town.—Terre Haute Express.

The politicians will soon have their desired opportunity to sit down on a trust. A chair trust is being formed.—Elkart Review.

Governor Mount goes right along pursuing the even tenor of his way, heedless of the imprecations hurled at him by Jack Chinn, Justus Goebel and "Tim" Campbell.—Corydon Republican.

The serious manner in which leading Democratic newspapers are taking the Oregon election returns indicates a fear on their part that at least one plank in Mr. Bryan's platform has been splintered.—Evansville Journal.

Mr. Bryan, Mr. Jones and Mr. Towne are off on a fishing trip to the northern lakes. There is nothing so conducive to the health of the mind as fishing, and as a fishing trip, and no doubt Mr. Towne will soon know where he is "at."—Kokomo News.

Mr. Bryan says he never wrote letters to the Philippines. Possibly he did not, but if the letters written in his name were forgeries his course has been such as to give the rebels a reason for accepting him as genuine.—Vincennes Commercial.

Republican rascals never get any favor shown them by the Republican party; so the thieves in Cuba may as well prepare to take the money and run.—Terre Haute Express.

There is not a Republican paper in the United States that has a word to say in defense of the Philippines now, as well as a few years ago.

For a second time Governor Mount has peremptorily refused to surrender the Kentucky exiles in Indiana to the mercy of the blood-thirsty bull-dozers of Kentucky. The governor is not a man who is easily intimidated by the threats of the most bigoted and big-mouthed people by his refusal to be party to the murderous plans of the Goebel Democracy.—Huntington Herald.

The world is not growing worse. We are knowing more about crime. Official dishonesty is not as great as in the past. There were times in Jackson's administration when 20 per cent of the government was stolen from the people.

There is no such thing as expanding to take them in. They are already. If Democrats or anybody else want to raise the issue of giving them up—the issue of contraction. Are you a contractionist?—Lagrange Standard.

Hardly.

We fear Mr. Benedict's new party will never be large enough to fit Grover Cleveland.

EXPANSION.

Striking Comment of Half a Century Ago on American Destiny.

Salt Lake Tribune.

In Gilpin's "North American Mission" the writer pictured the swift-coming events which the United States was to take part in. Here is a statement of the details of the senator's facial characteristics. There is an indescribable something about the man that defies reproduction. His is a remarkable face in many respects, full of light and shade, expressive to the extent of the most panoramic view changing with his own mood or the moods of those about him. It is a rugged face, such as you have in those actors who charm their plastic features at will in giving imitations of famous men. And yet at times it seems to be as unapproachable as the face of the very Sphinx. Small wonder that the artist fails to retain its elusive characteristics.

PLEA FOR A BIG NAVY.

Failure of the Atlantic Ocean as a Means of Defense.

Hartford Courant.

Among the interesting lessons of the war in South Africa is one that we in this country ought to heed with closest attention. It is the change in the relations between land and water.

It has always been our boast that in our 2,500 miles of seacoast lay our strength, and that the great Atlantic was our ample protection. Now we learn that each port is an opening in our defense, and that the ocean is merely the easy way to it.

Within a few months England succeeded in landing over 200,000 men in remote South Africa. She impressed the great steamer and merchant marine and had the means at once available for moving her troops.

Germany, with the mighty fleets of her North German Lloyd and other lines, could command as ample facilities, and either of these countries, should hostilities develop with the United States, could pour troops over here so as to have on our soil in a few weeks twice as many trained soldiers as we have in our entire army—half, the West Indies and in far-away Philippines all together.

It is keeping them off the ocean would bring them to us! The steamship makes fast time, rides through storms, holds to her route and gets there. Given enough soldiers and enough ships (and several European nations have them), and she would have hands full of trouble here.

The only sure defense would be a navy of such magnitude that it could patrol the whole coast, and do that in sufficient force to overcome the war vessels that conveyed the hostile fleet. It is true that one or two thousand soldiers on an unarmored ship are in a pretty defenseless predicament and that, if they were adequately met on the coast, they would be easily defeated.

The way our own troops were held back at Tampa on board the transports a week or so ago, because of a run of phlegm, is somewhere on the coast, shows the timidity of soldiers in the presence of a peril that they have no way of averting.

That our country should have no navy is a very serious matter. It is not England has a navy that can protect her whole island front. But our little navy, which is not a navy at all, could hardly stand the awful task that a war with a great modern power would throw upon it. We are not a naval power, and we have no navy.

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